



**Department
of Health**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

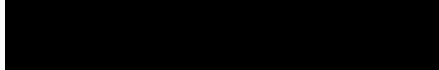
HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 17, 2016

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Joseph DeSanto, MD



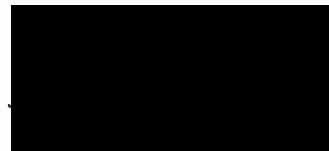
Re: License No. 209167

Dear Dr. DeSanto:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 16-245. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect July 20, 2016.

Please direct any questions to: Board for Professional Medical Conduct, 90 Church Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10007-2919, telephone # 212-417-4445.

Sincerely,



Henry Spector, M.D.
Acting Executive Secretary
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc:

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER
OF
JOSEPH DESANTO, M.D.

BPMC No. 16-245
CONSENT
ORDER

Upon the application of (Respondent) JOSEPH DESANTO, M.D. in the attached
Consent Agreement and Order, which is made a part of this Consent Order, it is

ORDERED, that the Consent Agreement, and its terms, are adopted and
it is further

ORDERED, that this Consent Order shall be effective upon issuance by the Board,
either

by mailing of a copy of this Consent Order, either by first class mail to Respondent at
the address in the attached Consent Agreement or by certified mail to Respondent's
attorney, OR

upon facsimile transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney,
whichever is first.

SO ORDERED.

DATE: 7/8/2016



ARTHUR S. HENGERER, M.D.
Chair
State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

**IN THE MATTER
OF
JOSEPH DESANTO, M.D.**

**CONSENT
AGREEMENT**

JOSEPH DESANTO, M.D., represents that all of the following statements are true:

That on or about December 16, 1997, I was licensed to practice as a physician in the State of New York, and issued License No. 209167 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is [REDACTED], and I will advise the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct of any change of address.

I understand that the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) has charged me with one or more specifications of professional misconduct, as set forth in a Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit "A", attached to and part of this Consent Agreement.

I assert that I cannot successfully defend against at least one of the acts of misconduct alleged, in full satisfaction of the charges against me, and agree to the following penalty:

Pursuant to New York Pub. Health Law § 230-a(2), my license to practice medicine in New York State shall be suspended for three years, with said suspension to be fully stayed.

Pursuant to New York Pub. Health Law § 230-a(9), I shall be placed on probation for a period of five years, subject to the terms set forth in attached Exhibit "B."

I further agree that the Consent Order shall impose the following conditions:

That Respondent shall comply with each and every penalty imposed by this Order pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a.

That Respondent shall comply fully with the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order dated June 12, 2015 (effective July 10, 2015) of the California Medical Board and any extension or modification thereof.

That Respondent shall provide a written authorization for the California Medical Board to provide the Director of OPMC with any/all information or documentation as requested by OPMC to enable OPMC to determine whether Respondent is in compliance with the California Medical Board Order.

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of N.Y. Educ Law § 6502 including but not limited to the

requirements that a licensee shall register and continue to be registered with the New York State Education Department (except during periods of actual suspension) and that a licensee shall pay all registration fees. Respondent shall not exercise the option provided in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration and payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 120 days after the Consent Order's effective date and will continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State; and

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 2995-a(4) and 10 NYCRR 1000.5, including but not limited to the requirements that a licensee shall: report to the department all information required by the Department to develop a public physician profile for the licensee; continue to notify the department of any change in profile information within 30 days of any change (or in the case of optional information, within 365 days of such change); and, in addition to such periodic reports and notification of any changes, update his or her profile information within six months prior to the expiration date of the licensee's registration period. Licensee shall submit changes to his or her physician profile information either electronically using the department's secure web site or on forms prescribed by the department, and licensee shall attest to the truthfulness, completeness and correctness of any changes licensee submits to the department. This condition shall take effect 30 days

after the Order's effective date and shall continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State. Respondent's failure to comply with this condition, if proven and found at a hearing pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230, shall constitute professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(21) and N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(29). Potential penalties for failure to comply with this condition may include all penalties for professional misconduct set forth in N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a, including but not limited to: revocation or suspension of license, Censure and Reprimand, probation, public service and/or fines of up to \$10,000 per specification of misconduct found; and

That Respondent shall provide the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), Riverview Center, 150 Broadway, Suite 355, Albany, New York 12204-2719, with the following information, in writing, and ensure that this information is kept current: a full description of Respondent's employment and practice; all professional and residential addresses and telephone numbers within and outside New York State; and all investigations, arrests, charges, convictions or disciplinary actions by any local, state or federal agency, institution or facility. Respondent shall notify OPMC, in writing, within 30 days of any additions to or changes in the required information. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the Order's effective date and shall continue at all times until Respondent receives written

notification from the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, Physician Monitoring Program, that OPMC has determined that Respondent has fully complied with and satisfied the requirements of the Order, regardless of tolling; and

That Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) in its administration and enforcement of this Consent Order and in its investigations of matters concerning Respondent. Respondent shall respond in a timely manner to all OPMC requests for written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with this Consent Order.

Respondent shall meet with a person designated by the Director of OPMC, as directed. Respondent shall respond promptly and provide all documents and information within Respondent's control, as directed. This condition shall take effect upon the Board's issuance of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains licensed in New York State; and

I stipulate that my failure to comply with any conditions of this Consent Order shall constitute misconduct as defined by N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(29).

I agree that, if I am charged with professional misconduct in future, this Consent Agreement and Order **shall** be admitted into evidence in that proceeding.

I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand that if the Board does not adopt this Consent Agreement, none of its terms shall bind me or constitute an admission of any of the acts of alleged misconduct; this Consent Agreement shall not be used against me in any way and shall be kept in strict confidence; and the Board's denial shall be without prejudice to the pending disciplinary proceeding and the Board's final determination pursuant to the N.Y. Pub. Health Law.

I agree that, if the Board adopts this Consent Agreement, the Chair of the Board shall issue a Consent Order in accordance with its terms. I agree that this Consent Order shall take effect upon its issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of the Consent Order by first class mail to me at the address in this Consent Agreement, or to my attorney by certified mail, OR upon facsimile transmission to me or my attorney, whichever is first. The Consent Order, this agreement, and all attached Exhibits shall be public documents, with only patient identities, if any, redacted. As public documents, they may be posted on the Department's website. OPMC shall report this action to the National Practitioner Data Bank and the Federation of State Medical Boards, and any other entities that the Director of OPMC shall deem appropriate.

I stipulate that the proposed sanction and Consent Order are authorized by N.Y. Pub. Health Law §§ 230 and 230-a, and that the Board and OPMC have the requisite powers to carry out all included terms. I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement of my own free will and not under duress, compulsion or restraint. In consideration of the value to me of the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement, allowing me to resolve this matter without the various risks and burdens of a hearing on the merits, I knowingly waive

my right to contest the Consent Order for which I apply, whether administratively or judicially, I agree to be bound by the Consent Order, and I ask that the Board adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand and agree that the attorney for the Department, the Director of OPMC and the Chair of the Board each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed agreement and Consent Order, based upon my application, or to decline to do so. I further understand and agree that no prior or separate written or oral communication can limit that discretion.

DATE 6/28/16



JOSEPH DESANTO, M.D.
RESPONDENT

The undersigned agree to Respondent's attached Consent Agreement and to its proposed penalty, terms and conditions.

DATE: _____

Attorney for Respondent . ESQ.

DATE: 7/1/16

ANNA R. LEWIS
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 7/1/16

KEITH W. SERVIS
Director
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "A"

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER
OF
JOSEPH DESANTO, M.D.

STATEMENT
OF
CHARGES

JOSEPH DESANTO, M.D., the Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on or about December 16, 1997, by the issuance of license number 209167 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. On or about June 12, 2015, the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California, issued a public Decision and Order, in which it adopted a Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order in which Respondent admitted the complete truth and accuracy of each and every charge and allegation in the First Amended Accusation No. 10-2012-223005. The Board concluded that there was an adequate basis upon which to impose discipline on Respondent's license, pursuant to Sections 2227 and 2234, subdivisions (b) and (c) of the California Business and Professions Code, in that he committed gross negligence and repeated acts of negligence in his care and treatment of two patients. The Board also found that Respondent administered controlled substances to himself in violation of section 2239, subdivision (a) of the California Code and the Health and Safety Code, Section 11170, and Respondent obtained controlled substances by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge, and/or by the concealment of a material fact, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11173.

1. Pursuant to this finding, the Board revoked Respondent's license, stayed; sixty days actual suspension; probation for a period of seven (7) years; controlled substances-partial restriction; controlled substances-maintain records and access to records and inventories; controlled substances-abstain from use; alcohol-abstain from use; biological fluid testing; and a prescribing practices course and professionalism program (ethics course); psychiatric evaluation; psychotherapy; medical evaluation and treatment; monitoring-practice; and no supervision of physician assistants during probation.
2. The conduct resulting in the Board's Decision and Order against Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State pursuant to New York Education Law §6530(3)(Practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion); §6530(4)(Practicing the profession with gross negligence on a particular occasion) and §6530(16)(willful failure to comply with substantial provisions of state or local laws, rules, or regulations governing the practice of medicine).

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES
HAVING BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Respondent is charged with committing professional misconduct as defined in N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(9)(b) by having been found guilty of improper professional practice or professional misconduct by a duly authorized professional disciplinary agency of another state where the conduct upon which the finding was based would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state (namely N.Y. Educ. Law §6530(3), §6530(4) and §6530(16)) as alleged in the facts of the following:

1. Paragraphs A., A.1., and A.2.

DATE: ^{July 1} ~~June~~, 2016
New York, New York



Roy Nemerson
Deputy Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "B"

Terms of Probation

- 1) Respondent's conduct shall conform to moral and professional standards of conduct and governing law. Any act of professional misconduct by Respondent as defined by N.Y. Educ. Law §§ 6530 or 6531 shall constitute a violation of probation and may subject Respondent to an action pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230(19).
- 2) Respondent shall cooperate fully with, and respond in a timely manner to, OPMC requests to provide written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with the terms of this Consent Order. Upon the Director of OPMC's request, Respondent shall meet in person with the Director's designee.
- 3) Respondent's failure to pay any monetary penalty by the prescribed date shall subject Respondent to all provisions of law relating to debt collection by New York State, including but not limited to: the imposition of interest, late payment charges and collection fees; referral to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for collection; and non-renewal of permits or licenses [Tax Law § 171(27); State Finance Law § 18; CPLR § 5001; Executive Law § 32].
- 4) The probation period shall toll when Respondent is not engaged in active medical practice in New York State for a period of 30 consecutive days or more. Respondent shall notify the Director of OPMC, in writing, if Respondent is not currently engaged in, or intends to leave, active medical practice in New York State for a consecutive 30 day period. Respondent shall then notify the Director again at least 14 days before returning to active practice. Upon Respondent's return to active practice in New York State, the probation period shall resume and Respondent shall fulfill any unfulfilled probation terms and such additional requirements as the Director may impose as reasonably relate to the matters set forth in Exhibit "A" or as are necessary to protect the public health.
- 5) The Director of OPMC may review Respondent's professional performance. This review may include but shall not be limited to: a review of office records, patient records, hospital charts, and/or electronic records; and interviews with or periodic visits with Respondent and staff at practice locations or OPMC offices.
- 6) Respondent shall adhere to federal and state guidelines and professional standards of care with respect to infection control practices. Respondent shall ensure education, training and oversight of all office personnel involved in medical care, with respect to these practices.
- 7) Respondent shall maintain complete and legible medical records that accurately reflect the evaluation and treatment of patients and contain all information required by State rules and regulations concerning controlled substances.

- 8) Respondent shall remain free from alcohol and all other mood altering substances other than those prescribed for Respondent's treatment by a licensed health care professional aware of Respondent's history of chemical dependency and/or mental illness. Respondent shall not self-prescribe any medications.
- 9) Respondent shall remain active in self-help groups such as, but not limited to, Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and Caduceus.
- 10) Respondent shall notify all treating physicians of Respondent's history of substance abuse. Respondent shall advise OPMC of any controlled or mood-altering substance given or prescribed by treating health care professionals.
- 11) Respondent shall not practice medicine in the State of New York, or in any other jurisdiction based upon his New York State Medical License, until and unless he demonstrates his fitness to practice medicine, to the satisfaction of the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct. Such demonstration shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Certified true and complete copies of all evaluation and treatment records relating to my substance abuse/dependence, psychological, psychiatric and/or mental health treatment, whether in an in-patient, out-patient, after-care or consultation setting. The records shall include the results of all tests done to evaluate my fitness and clinical competence to practice medicine. These certified records shall be sent directly to OPMC by all treatment providers/facilities/evaluators.
 - b. Documentation of my participation in the program(s) of the Committee for Physician Health of the Medical Society of the State of New York or similar program(s). Documentation shall include, but not be limited to, verification of compliance and results of forensically valid alcohol/drug screening.
 - c. Fully executed waivers of patient confidentiality for any prior or prospective evaluation and treatment records; these waivers shall comply with the requirements of federal confidentiality laws and regulations, including but not limited to: HIPAA, Public Law 104-191, et seq., and the laws governing confidentiality of substance abuse records, at 42 U.S.C. §§ 290dd-3 and ee-3 and 42 C.F.R, Part 2.
 - d. A current, independent, in-depth chemical dependency and psychiatric evaluation by a board-certified psychiatrist specializing in addiction.

- e. Upon request of the Director of OPMC, I shall attend, participate in and cooperate with an interview with designated Office of Professional Medical Conduct personnel.

Provision of these documents does not, alone, constitute a showing that I am no longer incapacitated for the active practice of medicine.

- 12) Respondent shall not be permitted to practice medicine except when monitored by qualified health care professional monitors: a Sobriety Monitor, a Practice Supervisor, and a Therapist, proposed by Respondent and approved, in writing, by the Director of OPMC. Any medical practice in violation of this term shall constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine,

Within 7 days of learning an approved monitor is no longer willing or able to serve, Respondent shall submit the name of a proposed successor to the Director of OPMC. Monitors shall not be family members or personal friends or be in professional relationships that would pose a conflict with monitoring responsibilities. All monitors shall execute acknowledgment forms provided by OPMC certifying familiarity with Respondent's history of substance abuse, with this Order and its terms, and acknowledging a willingness to comply with the monitor's reporting responsibilities regarding Respondent's compliance with the terms of this Order.

- a. Respondent shall ensure that the monitors are familiar with Respondent's history of substance abuse and with the terms of this Order. Respondent shall cause the monitors to report any deviation from compliance with the terms of this Order to OPMC. Respondent shall cause the monitors to submit required reports on a timely basis.
- b. Respondent shall submit to random, unannounced observed blood, breath and/or urine screens for the presence of drugs and alcohol (hereafter "drug screen"), when requested by a monitor. The monitoring shall be on a random, unannounced, directly-observed, 7-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day basis. Respondent shall report for a drug screen within 4 hours of being contacted by a monitor. Monitors shall report to OPMC immediately if Respondent refuses or delays a test or if a test is positive for alcohol, or any other unauthorized drug or substance. Respondent shall avoid all substances that may cause positive urine drug screens, such as poppy seeds, mouthwash or cough medicine. Any positive test result shall constitute a violation of the terms of this Order.
- c. Respondent shall meet regularly with a Sobriety Monitor. During the first 12 months of monitoring, Respondent shall cause the Sobriety Monitor to

obtain drug screens at a frequency of no less than 6 times per month. If Respondent is compliant throughout the first 12-month period, subsequent drug screens shall be obtained at a frequency to be proposed by the Sobriety Monitor and approved by OPMC. Respondent shall cause the Sobriety Monitor to submit quarterly reports to OPMC certifying Respondent's sobriety or lack of sobriety. These reports are to include forensically valid results of all drug screens performed and an assessment of self-help group (e.g., AA/NA/Caduceus) attendance and 12-step progress.

- d. Respondent shall practice only when supervised in medical practice by a licensed physician (hereafter "Practice Supervisor"). The Practice Supervisor shall be on-site at all locations, unless determined otherwise by the Director of OPMC, and shall be in a position to regularly observe and assess Respondent's medical practice. The Practice Supervisor shall oversee Respondent's compliance with the terms of practice imposed by the Order and Respondent's prescribing, administering, dispensing, inventorying, wasting and disposal of controlled substances. Respondent shall cause the Practice Supervisor to report to OPMC immediately any suspected impairment, inappropriate behavior, questionable medical practice, possible misconduct, or violation by Respondent of any of the terms of this Order. Respondent shall cause the Practice Supervisor to submit quarterly reports to OPMC regarding the quality of Respondent's medical practice and prescribing practices, any unexplained absences from work, and certifying Respondent's compliance or detailing Respondent's failure to comply with each term imposed.
- e. Respondent shall engage and continue in therapy with a treating health care professional (hereafter "Therapist"). Respondent shall cause the Therapist to submit a proposed treatment plan and quarterly reports to OPMC certifying whether Respondent is in compliance with the treatment plan. OPMC, at its discretion, may provide information or documentation from its investigative files concerning Respondent to Respondent's Therapist. Respondent shall cause the Therapist to report to OPMC immediately if Respondent leaves treatment against medical advice or displays any symptoms of a suspected or actual relapse. Respondent shall cause the Therapist to notify OPMC, in writing, of any termination of treatment approved by the Therapist, no less than 30 days prior to such termination.
- f. Respondent shall be subject to any further Conditions the Director may impose upon Respondent's New York Practice based on matters underlying this Consent Agreement and/or any circumstances or

information known to the Director at the time of Respondent's proposed commencement of New York Practice.

- 13) At the direction of the Director of OPMC, Respondent shall submit to evaluations by a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed mental health practitioner or other health care professional or program designated by the Director (hereafter "Evaluator.") Respondent shall provide the Evaluator with a copy of this Order and copies of all previous treatment records. OPMC, at its discretion, may provide information or documentation from its investigative files concerning Respondent to Respondent's Evaluator. The Evaluator shall report to the Director regarding Respondent's condition and fitness or incapacity to practice medicine. Respondent shall comply with all treatment recommendations based upon the evaluation; failure to comply with such treatment recommendations shall constitute professional misconduct.
- 14) Respondent shall enroll, or continue enrollment, in the Committee for Physician Health (CPH) and shall engage in a contract with CPH that defines the terms, conditions and duration of Respondent's recovery program. Respondent shall comply with the contract. Respondent shall give written authorization for CPH to provide the Director of OPMC with all information or documentation requested by OPMC to determine whether Respondent is in compliance with the contract and with this Order, including full access to all records maintained by CPH with respect to Respondent.
 - a. Respondent shall cause CPH to report to OPMC promptly if Respondent refuses to comply with the contract, refuses to submit to treatment or if Respondent's impairment is not substantially alleviated by treatment.
 - b. Respondent shall cause CPH to report immediately to OPMC if Respondent is regarded at any time to be an imminent danger to the public.
- 15) Respondent shall enroll in and successfully complete a continuing education program in an area or areas as directed by the Director of OPMC. This continuing education program is subject to the Director's prior written approval and shall be successfully completed within the first 90 days of the probation period.
- 16) Respondent shall comply with this Consent Order and all its terms, and shall bear all associated compliance costs. Upon receiving evidence of noncompliance with, or a violation of, these terms, the Director of OPMC and/or the Board may initiate a violation of probation proceeding, and/or any other such proceeding authorized by law, against Respondent.